Please amend the above-identified patent application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 3-8, 11, 14 and 19 as follows:

Sub B1

3. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer in step (c) is subjected to ultraviolet light radiation at an intensity of up to 500 milliWatts.

A1

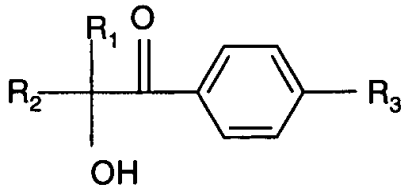
4. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer is formed from acrylamide.

5. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer has an intrinsic viscosity of at least 4 dl/g.

6. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the polymer formed by solution polymerisation.

7. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is soluble or dispersible in the aqueous monomer or monomer blend.

8. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



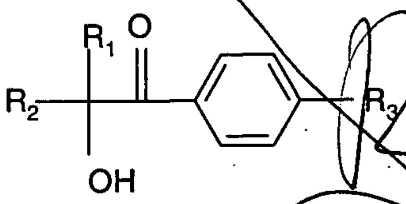
wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_{1-3} alkyl or together form a C_{4-8} cycloaliphatic ring, R_3 is H, C_{1-2} alkyl or $-O(CH_2CH_2)_nOH$ and n is 1-20.

A2

11. (amended) A process according to claim 1 in which step (c) is conducted simultaneous with a drying stage.

A3

14. (amended) A method according to claim 12 in which the ultra violet initiator is a compound of formula:



wherein R_1 and R_2 are each independently C_{1-3} alkyl or together form a C_{4-8} cycloaliphatic ring, R_3 is H, C_{1-2} alkyl or $-O(CH_2CH_2)_nOH$ and n is 1-20.

19. (amended) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a process defined by claim 1 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.

Insert new claim 20 as follows:

20. (new) A water soluble or water swellable polymer obtained by a method according to claim 12 in which the amount of residual monomer is below 100 ppm.